- 21. The process according to claim 12, wherein each of the rod lenses to be placed has a center-line-average roughness of  $0.5\mu m 2.0 \mu m$  on the peripheral surface.
- 22. The process according to claim 12, wherein the rod lenses to be placed are such that representative values for the center-line-average roughness on their peripheral surfaces are between  $0.01\mu m$  and  $0.2~\mu m$  as averaged for the whole lens array.
- 23. The process according to claim 12, wherein the rod lenses to be placed are such that representative values for the center-line-average roughness on their peripheral surfaces are between  $0.01\mu m$  and  $0.2~\mu m$  as expressed by standard deviation for the whole lens array.
- 24. The process according to claim 12, wherein the rod lenses to be placed are such that representative values for their diameters are between  $0.01\mu m$  and  $0.2 \mu m$  as expressed by standard deviation for the whole lens array.
- 29.. The rod lens array according to claim 26, wherein the representative values for the center-line-average roughness are each a value on a straight line that extends on the peripheral surface of the lens parallel to its axis.

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30. The rod lens array according to claim 26, wherein the representative values for the center-line-average roughness are each the average of values on different straight lines that extend on the peripheral surface of the lens along its axis.

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34. The rod lens array according to claim 26, further comprising:

a resin portion that is integral with the constituent rod lenses such that it fills the gap between adjacent rod lenses and surrounds all rod lenses.